

**REMARKS:**

Applicant has carefully studied the nonfinal Examiner's Action and all references cited therein. The amendment appearing above and these explanatory remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the Action. Accordingly, this important patent application is now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Applicant responds to the outstanding Action by centered headings that correspond to the centered headings employed by the Office, to ensure full response on the merits to each finding of the Office.

**Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102**

Applicant acknowledges the quotation of 35 U.S.C § 102(b).

Claims 1-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C § 102(b) as being anticipated by Gross et al., (U.S. Patent No. 5,555,346). Applicant respectfully traverses the finding of the Office.

Regarding claim 1, the Office states that Gross teaches a computer program product for message traffic interception comprising, a computer readable medium, as shown by Gross at col. 4, lines 14-43, a protocol independent API core module store on the medium, the API core module having an array of predetermined rules for intercepted message traffic, as shown by Gross at col. 4, lines 14-43, and an interface communication emulator module communicatively coupling protocol-specific message traffic to the API core, as shown by Gross at col. 4, lines 14-43. The Applicant respectfully traverses the finding of the Office.

Claim 1 of the present invention is directed to a computer program product for program level message traffic interception. As described in paragraphs [0001] and [0002] and as known in the art, program level message traffic is the exchange of specially formatted data describing events, requests and replies. Messaging allows programs to communicate across different programming environments, including languages, compilers and operating systems, since the minimal requirements for the various environments are a common messaging format and protocol. The system described by Gross at col. 4, lines 14-43 is directed to an electronic mail

messaging system. As described by Gross, the system includes an electronic mail protocol such as MHS that is installed to facilitate mail message processing among computers. In this scenario, a message is an individual piece of electronic mail. Electronic mail messages are not equivalent to program level messaging traffic as disclosed and claimed by the present invention.

Claim 1 of the present invention includes a protocol independent API core module stored on a computer-readable medium. The API described by Gross is not protocol independent. As described by Gross at col. 4, the rule based messaging mechanism is integrated with the particular mail application and the mail application is based upon a specific electronic mail protocol such as MHS. As such, the API described by Gross et al. is not protocol independent, but instead is dependent upon the protocol dictated by the electronic mail package selected.

Claim 1 of the present invention includes an interface communication emulator module communicatively coupling the protocol-specific program level message traffic to the API core. As disclosed at paragraph [0041] and shown in Fig. 2, the interface communication emulator module is a component that handles the actual receipt and transmission of messages on a specific type of interface. Utilizing the interface communication emulator module, messages are received and reformatted into the standard scenario compliant structures. Gross et al. does not describe an interface communication emulator module as disclosed and claimed by the present invention.

For the reasons cited above, Applicant believes that amended independent claim 1 is not anticipated by Gross et al. and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 2-30 are dependent upon claim 1, and are therefore allowable as a matter of law.

If the Office is not fully persuaded as to the merits of Applicant's position, or if an Examiner's Amendment would place the pending claims in condition for allowance, a telephone call to the undersigned at (727) 507-8558 is requested.

Very respectfully,

SMITH & HOPEN

By:

  
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Attorneys for Applicant

Dated: May 13, 2004

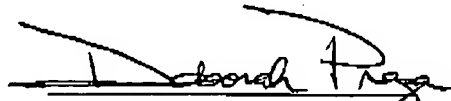
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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

(37 C.F.R. 1.8(a))

I HEREBY CERTIFY that this Amendment A is being transmitted by facsimile to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Art Unit 2157, Attn.: Hussein A. El Chanti, (703) 746-7239 on May 13, 2004.

Dated: May 13, 2004

  
Deborah Preza

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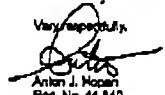
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Dear Examiner B Chant: In response to the non-final office action mailed April 5, 2004, we enclose the following: 1) Amendment Transmittal with Certificate of Facsimile Transmission under 37 CFR 1.8(a) dated May 13, 2004 (2 pages); 2) Amendment A with Certificate of Facsimile Transmission under 37 CFR 1.8(a) dated May 13, 2004 (3 pages). Very respectfully,  Anton J. Hopen Reg. No. 41,849					
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